

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration and entry of this amendment and remarks are respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 19-20, 22-23, 25, and 28-31 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 7, 9-11, 14, 21, 24, 26, and 27 have been amended. Thus, claims 4, 7, 9-17, 21, 24, 26 and 27 are pending in the application.

The Examiner indicated that claims 7, 9, 10, 24, 26, 27, 30 and 31 contain allowable subject matter. To place this application in condition for allowance expeditiously, claims 7, 9, 10, 24, 26 and 27 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, claims 11 and 14 have been amended to including the allowable subject matter of claims 30 and 31, respectively.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is and condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-1130, under Order No. 95-423, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Stemberger', written in a cursive style.

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**Dated: July 22, 2004**